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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,966	01/15/2004	Volker Haag	1689.006US1	4251

21186 7590 04/10/2006

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EXAMINER

LEVI, DAMEON E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8/1

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/757,966	HAAG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dameon E. Levi	2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blatti US Patent 6396690.

Regarding claim 1, Blatti discloses an assembly comprising:

a frame (element 61,33 Figs 2-6)having front and rear frame strips(element 35, Figs 2-6); and guide rails(element 37, Figs 2-6) that are positioned between the front frame strip and the rear frame strip and aligned in the direction of insertion for the mounting of a circuit board of a plug-in module, wherein the guide rails, in cross section, are formed in a u-shape (element 37, Figs 2-6)and include a bottom and two sidewalls(elements 41,43, Figs 2-6), at least one of the sidewalls having at least one lateral void(element 46,44, Figs 2-6), the void of the at least one sidewall corresponding with at least one contact area at a lower edge of the circuit board.

Regarding claim 2, Blatti discloses wherein both sidewalls of the guide rail each have at least one void(element 41,43,46,44, Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 3, Blatti discloses wherein the voids are positioned in pairs opposite each other(element 46 Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 4, Blatti discloses wherein a distance between the sidewalls of 1

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guide rail corresponds with a thickness of the circuit board (elements 37, 65 Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 5, Blatti discloses wherein the sidewalls are separated from the bottom of the guide rail in the area of the at least one void so that a slit-like opening is created (element 41,43,46,44, Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 6, Blatti discloses wherein a junction between the at least one sidewall and the at least one void is slanted or rounded(element 41,43,46,44,47 Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 7, Blatti discloses an assembly comprising:
a frame(element 61,33 Figs 2-6); and one or more guide rails(element 37, Figs 2-6) attached to the frame and adapted to hold a circuit board,
each guide rail having a bottom and a pair of sidewalls(elements 37,41,43, Figs 2-6), at least one of the pair of sidewalls having at least one lateral void(element 41,43,46,44, Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 8, Blatti discloses wherein the at least one void of the at least one sidewall (element 41,43,46,44, Figs 2-6) corresponds with at least one contact area at a lower edge of a circuit board(element 65,71 Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 9, Blatti discloses wherein the one or more guide rails are aligned in the direction of insertion for the mounting of the circuit board(elements 37, 65,71 Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 10, Blatti discloses wherein both sidewalls of the guide rail each have at least one void(element 41,43,46,44, Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 11, Blatti discloses wherein the voids are positioned in pairs

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opposite each other(element 46, Figs 2-6).

Regarding claim 12, Blatti discloses wherein a distance between the sidewalls of the guide rail corresponds with a thickness of the circuit board (elements 37, 65 Figs 2-6).

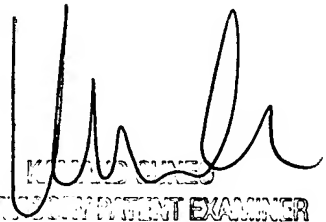
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dameon E. Levi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2105. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (9:00 - 5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dameon E Levi
Examiner
Art Unit 2841

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MAILED 12/15/00
SUPERVISOR PATENT EXAMINER
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